

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6829

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

RUMJODZBAMCONSUL UDORN 1451

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 1870

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LA, TH

SUBJECT: THAI FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS LAOS

SUMMARY: IN JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AUGUST 3 MARKING END OF THAI FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT TO LAOS, THAI SAID THEY WOULD TAKE ACTION TO OPEN TWO OR THREE MORE BORDER POINTS AND LAO IN RETURN AGREED THEY WOULD QUICKLY FREE AND RETURN THAI JAILED FOR VIOLATING LAO LAW. TWO SIDES ALSO AGREED HOLD FURTHER DISCUSSIONS IN FUTURE AT OFFICIAL LEVEL ON TRADE. COMMUNIQUE NOTED THAI THANKS FOR WARM WELCOME BY LAO. LAO APPARENTLY GOT LESS THAN THEY WANTED, PARTICULARLY ON REOPENING WHOLE BORDER, WHILE THAI SEEMED PLEASED THAT THEY HAD REFUSED TO GIVE IN TO LAO DEMANDS. END SUMMARY.

1. THAI FOREIGN MINISTER PHICHAIRATTAKUN AND LARGE PARTY, INCLUDING FOREIGN MINISTRY AND NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
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OFFICIALS, ARRIVED VIENTIANE JULY 31 AND DEPARTED AUGUST 3

BY SPECIAL PLANE BOUND FOR HANOI.

2. AFTER MEMBERS OF BOTH DELEGATIONS ATTENDED PRC RECEPTION ON 49TH ANNIVERSARY OF PLA, LAO FOREIGN MINISTER HOSTED DINNER JULY 31. TWO SIDES OPENED OFFICIAL TALKS SUNDAY MORNING AUGUST 1, WHICH CONTINUED DURING DAY. THAT EVENING THAI AMBASSADOR HOSTED RECEPTION FOR DELEGATIONS AND DIPLOMATIC CORPS. AT RECEPTION, THAI UNDERSECRETARY FOREIGN AFFAIRS ANAN PANYARACHUN TOLD EMBOFF THAT TALKS GOING WELL, THAT LAO WERE TOUGH, BUT THAT THAI HAD STOOD FIRM AGAINST LAO DEMANDS. FOREIGN AFFAIRS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR NITSAI WETCHACHIWA STATED SAME EVENING THAT TWO SIDES HAD FORMED COMMITTEE TO DRAFT COMMUNIQUE WHICH HE EXPECTED WOULD BE ISSUED NEXT DAY.

3. TALKS CONTINUED AUGUST 2, AND THAI DELEGATION CALLED ON PRIME MINISTER KAYSONE PHOMVIHANE. PHICHAI HOSTED DINNER FOR PHOUNE THAT EVENING.

4. COMMUNIQUE WAS FINALLY ISSUED AFTERNOON AUGUST 3 AS THAI DELEGATION DEPARTED FOR HANOI. INDICATIONS ARE THAT TWO SIDES HAD DIFFICULTY REACHING AGREEMENT. FOLLOWING ARE MAIN POINTS IN COMMUNIQUE TRANSLATED FROM THAI TEXT RELEASED BY THAI EMBASSY.

5. THAI WERE WARMLY WELCOMED BY PHOUNE AND KAYSONE. DISCUSSIONS USEFUL TO BOTH SIDES WERE CONDUCTED IN FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE WITH GOOD UNDERSTANDING. TWO COUNTRIES HAD LONG HISTORY OF BROTHERLY RELATIONS WHICH NO ONE COULD SPLIT. NEVERTHELESS, SINCE ESTABLISHMENT OF LPDR, TWO COUNTRIES SHOULD CARRY OUT RELATIONS ON NEW BASIS OF PRINCIPLES OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE IE: RESPECT FOR EACH OTHER'S INDEPENDENCE, SOVEREIGNTY, AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY; RESPECT FOR AVOIDANCE OF INTERVENTION OR EXTERNAL THREATS; NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS; PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF PROBLEMS ON BASIS OF EQUALITY ACCORDING TO UN CHARTER; AND AVOIDANCE OF THREATS OR USE OF FORCE AND REFUSAL TO ALLOW OTHERS TO USE THEIR TERRITORY AS A BASE TO INTERVENE, THREATEN, OR INVADE OTHER COUNTRIES IN ANY WAY.

6. TWO SIDES WILL TRY TO FIND WAYS TO MAKE THE MEKONG A RIVER OF TRUE PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP. TO SHOW THEIR GOOD AND HONEST INTENTIONS, THE THAI WILL ACT TO OPEN TWO OR THREE BORDER POINTS
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IN ADDITION TO THE POINT (OR POINTS) ALREADY OPENED. THE LAO PRAISE THESE GOOD AND HONEST THAI INTENTIONS. THE TWO SIDES THINK THIS WILL BE VERY USEFUL FOR TRADE AND COOPERATION IN OTHER WAYS FOR THE PEOPLE OF BOTH COUNTRIES. THE TWO SIDES WILL COOPERATE TO DRAW UP A SCHEDULE IN THE FUTURE TO FIT IN WITH

THE NEW SITUATION BASED ON CONTROLS FOR THE SECURITY OF THE TWO COUNTRIES.

7. TO SHOW THEIR GOOD AND HONEST INTENTIONS IN RETURN, THE LAO AGREE TO FREE THE THAI PEOPLE WHO VIOLATED LAO LAW AND WERE ARRESTED AND ARE STILL IMPRISONED IN LAOS. THEY WILL QUICKLY BE RETURNED TO THE THAI.

8. THE TWO SIDES WANT TO ENCOURAGE TRADE IN WAYS WHICH THEY WILL AGREE UPON IN THE FUTURE. THE THAI WILL FACILITATE THE TRANSPORTATION OF GOODS ACROSS THE BORDER TO LAOS UNDER A SYSTEM WHICH THE TWO SIDES WILL DISCUSS IN THE FUTURE.

9. TO FOLLOW THE ABOVE PRINCIPLES OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION AND PREVENT OR RESOLVE BORDER PROBLEMS WHICH WILL ARISE, THE TWO SIDES WILL HOLD DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN CONCERNED OFFICIALS AT VARIOUS LEVELS AS APPROPRIATE FROM TIME TO TIME.

10. THE THAI EXPRESS THANKS FOR THE WARM WELCOME OF THE LAO THROUGHOUT THE VISIT. THE THAI FOREIGN MINISTER INVITES PHOUNE TO VISIT THAILAND. THE LATTER IS PLEASED TO ACCEPT THE INVITATION, AND THE TWO SIDES WILL DISCUSS THE TIMING IN THE FUTURE. THE COMMUNIQUE IS SIGNED BY THE TWO MINISTERS.
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